



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Demands Immediate Action from Texas Lawmakers Regarding CHIP Funding Crisis

San Antonio, Texas – As vulnerable families wait helplessly for notification from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) about the continuation of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding, Texas lawmakers have been put on notice. State Senator José Menéndez has issued urgent letters to the Texas Congressional Delegation, Governor Greg Abbott, and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick demanding quick action to restore coverage for the hundreds of thousands of Texas children, pregnant women, and families that rely on this program.

Millions of children across the country are in danger of losing their medical care since Federal CHIP funding expired on Sept. 30 due to Congress's inability to renew funding. In Texas alone, there are over 400,000 children that might lose their coverage altogether if the federal government does not agree to fund an extra \$90 million to help supplement Texas funding until the end of February. This decision critically affects 45% of Texas children covered by CHIP and Medicaid if a confirmation is not made by the Dec. 9th deadline.

The following quote is attributed to Senator José Menéndez:

"We have a responsibility to protect every child in the state of Texas who is facing threats to their health coverage and who could face serious illness, or worse, due to a lack of government accountability. We cannot allow the clock to run out on the innocent children who are going to suffer from the type of reckless bargaining going on in Washington. As elected officials, parents, and concerned Texans, we cannot allow the lives of our children to be threatened with this dangerous uncertainty."

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